IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical data medium comprising a substrate that is optionally already coated with one or more reflective layers and on the surface of which have been applied

1) an information layer that can be recorded on using light, wherein the information layer contains (i) a light-absorbing compound comprising at least one phthalocyanine and (ii) optionally a binder,

(2) optionally one or more reflective layers, and

(3) optionally a protective layer or a further substrate or a covering layer,

wherein the optical data medium can be recorded on and read using blue light having a wave length in the range of about 360 nm to about 460 nm,

wherein the phthalocyanine dye corresponds to the formula (I)

$$MPc[R^3]_w[R^4]_x[R^5]_y[R^6]_z \qquad (I),$$

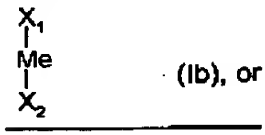
in which

Pc represents a phthalocyanine,

M represents two independent H atoms, a divalent metal atom, a trivalent axially monosubstituted metal atom of the formula (Ia)

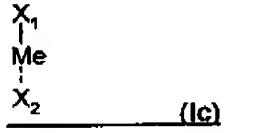
(Ia),

a tetravalent axially disubstituted metal atom of the formula (Ib)



(Ib), or

a trivalent axially monosubstituted and axially monocoordinated metal atom of the formula (Ic)



(Ic)

with the proviso that when X_1 or X_2 is a charged ligand, the charge is compensated by an oppositely charged ion.

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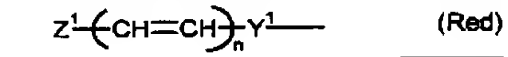
in which

X^1 and X^2, independently of one another, represent halogen, hydroxyl, oxygen, cyano, thiocyanato, cyanato, alkenyl, alkynyl, arylthio, dialkylamino, alkyl, alkoxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, aryl, aryloxy, $O\text{-}PR^{10}R^{11}$, $-O\text{-}P(O)R^{12}R^{13}$, $-O\text{-}SiR^{14}R^{15}R^{16}$, NH_2, alkylamino and the radical of a heterocyclic amine,

R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 correspond to substituents of the phenyl ring of the phthalocyanine and independently of one another, represent halogen, cyano, nitro, alkyl, aryl, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryloxy, arylthio, SO_3H, $SO_2NR^1R^2$, CO_2R^9, $CONR^1R^2$, $NH\text{-}COR^7$, or a radical of the formula $-(B)_m\text{-}D$, in which

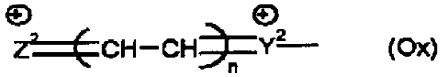
B denotes a bridge member selected from the group consisting of a direct bond, CH_2, CO, CH(alkyl), $C(alkyl)_2$, NH, S, O, or -CH=CH-, such that $(B)_m$ denotes a chemically reasonable sequence of bridge members B with m = 1 to 10, and

D represents the monovalent radical of a redox system of the formula



(Red)

or



(Ox)

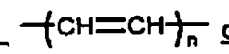
or represents a metallocenyl radical or metallocenylcarbonyl radical,

wherein Z^1 and Z^2, independently of one another, represent NR'R", OR", or SR",

Y^1 represents NR', O, or S,

Y^2 represents NR',

n represents 1 to 10, and

R' and R", independently of one another, represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or hetaryl, or form a direct bond or a bridge to one of the C atoms of the  or

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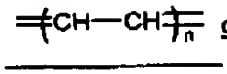 chain,

w, x, y and z, independently of one another, represent 0 to 4 and the sum w+x+y+z is ≤16,

R^1 and R^2, independently of one another, represent hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or aryl, or R^1 and R^2, together with the N atom to which they are bonded, form a heterocyclic 5-, 6-, or 7-membered ring, optionally with participation of further hetero atoms, and

R^7 to R^{16}, independently of one another, represent alkyl, aryl, hetaryl, or hydrogen.

2. (Original) An optical data medium according to Claim 1 wherein the substrate is transparent.

3. (Original) An optical data medium according to Claim 1 wherein the blue light is provided by a laser light.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) An optical data medium according to Claim 4 wherein M represents

(1) two independent H atoms or a divalent metal atom selected from the group consisting of Cu, Ni, Zn, Pd, Pt, Fe, Mn, Mg, Co, Ru, Ti, Be, Ca, Ba, Cd, Hg, Pb, and Sn,

(2) a trivalent axially monosubstituted metal atom of the formula (Ia) in which Me represents Al, Ga, Ti, In, Fe, or Mn, or

(3) a tetravalent metal atom of the formula (Ib) in which Me represents Si, Ge, Sn, Zn, Cr, Ti, Co, or V.

6. (Original) An optical data medium according to Claim 4 wherein

M represents a radical of the Formula (Ia) in which Me represents Al,

X_1 and X_2 represent halogen, aryloxy, or alkoxy, and

w, x, y, and z each represent 0.

7. (Original) An optical data medium according to Claim 4 wherein

M represents a radical of the Formula (Ib) in which Me represents Si,

X_1 and X_2 represent halogen, aryloxy, or alkoxy, and

w, x, y, and z each represent 0.

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8. (Original) A process for the production of the optical data medium according to Claim 1 comprising coating a substrate that is optionally already coated with a reflective layer with a phthalocyanine dye, optionally in combination with suitable binders and additives and optionally suitable solvents, and optionally providing the substrate with a reflective layer, further intermediate layers, and optionally a protective layer or a further substrate or a covering layer.

9. (Original) A process for the production of the optical data media according to Claim 8 wherein the coating with the phthalocyanine dye is effected by spin-coating, sputtering, or vapor deposition.

10. (Original) An optical data medium having a recordable information layer, wherein the optical data medium is obtained by recording on an optical data medium according to Claim 1 using blue light.

11. (Original) An optical data medium having a recordable information layer, wherein the optical data medium is obtained by recording on an optical data medium according to Claim 1 using a laser light having a wavelength of 360 to 460 nm.

12. (Currently Amended) An optical data medium according to Claim 4 wherein M represents a radical of a [[the]] formula (IS).

13. (Currently Amended) An optical data medium according to Claim 1 in addition to the one information layer further layers ~~further including at least one layer~~ selected from the group consisting of metal layers, dielectric layers, and protective layers.

14. (Cancelled)

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